



# Central Utah Water Conservancy District

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RECEIVED  
June 22 1990

JUN 27 1990

WATER RIGHTS  
SALT LAKE

Mr. John A. Swasey  
Duchesne River Commissioner  
P.O. Box 2  
Duchesne, UT 84021

Dear John:

I appreciate your letter dated June 20, 1990, which I received Friday, June 22, concerning the operation of Starvation Reservoir, the Strawberry Collection System, and the delivery of water to the Duchesne area water users. I can assure you that the District has the interest of the Duchesne water users at heart in the operation of Starvation Reservoir and I have always insisted that the operating criteria be developed in a cooperative effort to benefit the users. The District has done nothing deliberately that would deprive any water user of the rights that they have. Since Starvation Reservoir was put into operation many years ago, the District operators have been very conscious in the delivery of replacement water and the supplementary supply from the reservoir.

Prior to receiving your letter, the District had notified the Provo River Water Users Association that water which would be divertable from the North Fork through the Duchesne Tunnel would have to be released to provide replacement of 869 acre-feet in Starvation Reservoir. The Provo River Water Users Association had suggested that an exchange be operated which would include Utah Lake and Strawberry Reservoir. This District recognized that such an exchange could be accomplished, but decided that the coordination with other users, temporary exchange applications and political problems, that would occur, ruled out that exchange. Therefore the District requested that replacement begin, at the latest, on Monday, June 25th.

In your letter, you indicate that you have observed mismanagement in the operation of the Central Utah Project. I would appreciate knowing the specific mismanagement items so that I can investigate them. I would also appreciate knowing where, in your opinion, the District has been negligent in its cooperation with you or the local water users.

As you are aware, the District is operating Upper Stillwater Dam and Reservoir under the safety of dams filling criteria which has been developed by the Denver offices of the Bureau of Reclamation. We must adhere strictly to that criteria regardless of water supplies. At the time you observed water bypassing Knight Diversion Dam the District was restricted by the Bureau of Reclamation in Denver to limit increased storage in the reservoir to 2 feet per day for safety considerations.

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The District regrets any damage that occurred at the canal headings because of the high runoff. However as you are aware, if Stillwater Dam and Reservoir had not been in place the flows in Rock Creek would have peaked at 2172 second-feet (1784 daily average) rather than the 841 second-feet that occurred. We were pleased that the operators in Duchesne were able to reduce the peaks by more than half.

We will continue to cooperate with you and the water users and operate the Central Utah Project to provide maximum benefits for the local water users within the criteria required by the safety of dams rules from the Reclamation. The District employees in Duchesne will continue to be conscientious in the operation of the system and keep this office informed as they have in the past.

I understand your position as River Commissioner and that you must manage according to law. The District appreciates the good job that you are doing and the service you provide for all water users in the system. The procedures that I have established for operation of the Project places primary responsibility upon the Duchesne Office with consultation with the Orem Office. In that procedure the role of the Orem office has been to make recommendations and coordinate with Reclamation and others to assist the Duchesne area employees in that assignment. I recognize the fair way that you have treated all water users along the Duchesne River and we have not criticized you for that. It is for the Duchesne River water users that we have consistently operated the Project in such a way that they could obtain a fair allotment from the reservoir. Even in this year, with the supply as low as it is, the District has allocated 1 1/2 acre-feet per share from the reservoir. I appreciate our employees in the Duchesne office and believe they have developed a great working relationship with other agencies and water users.

I hope this answers the concerns you listed in your letter.

Sincerely yours,



Don A. Christiansen  
General Manager

DAC/HJP:tc

CC: Bob Morgan with a copy of John's letter  
Leo Brady